

IV. REMARKS

1. Amended drawings are attached hereto to address the objections to the drawings. Private key 236a and 236b, and Public key 238a and 238b are proposed to be added to FIG. 2. The processor in FIG. 9 is proposed to be identified by reference character "901" not "903".

2. The disclosure is amended to address the Examiner's objections.

3. Claim 29 is amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

4. Claims 1, 20, 29 and 49 are amended. Claims 2-19, 37 and 38 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 56-72 are new.

5. Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18-20, 22, 26-35, 37-39, 41-45, 47-49, 51 and 55 are not unpatentable over Liechti et al. (U.S. Patent No 5,715,164) under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Liechti involves conducting a TMS transaction initiated by the meter. (Col. 6, lines 44-48). This is not the same as Applicant's invention. In Applicant's invention, the need for a "descending register" or a value of funds remaining in a postage meter for the generation of postal indicia is eliminated. Funds for payment do not need to be maintained in the meter which is a unique feature of the invention. These features are not disclosed or suggested by Liechti. Thus, since Liechti does not disclose or suggest at least that the memory only includes an ascending register and no descending register claims 1 and 29 cannot be anticipated.

6. Claims 8, 17, 21, 23-25, 36, 46, 50 and 52-54 are not unpatentable over Liechti in view of Verma et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,833,618) ("Verma") under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). These claims should be allowable at least by reason of their respective dependencies.

Furthermore, Verma only relates to collecting and storing utility data. It involves remote reading and processing of data for meters.

Neither Liechti nor Verma are similar to the concept of the present invention according to which the data center collects the information how much postage has been used and then directly contacts the respective institution to collect the funds for what has been expended, without inhibiting the operation of the franking system. These operations can in essence to be announced to the user. Nothing in either of these references discloses or suggests the elimination of the descending register or an equivalent thereof.

7. Claim 40 is not unpatentable over Liechti in view of Adler et al. at least by reason of its dependency on claim 39.

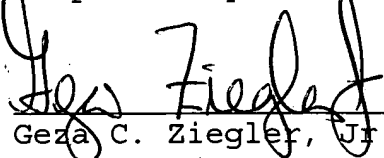
For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

A check in the amount of \$420 is enclosed for a two-month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to



large payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



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20 September 2004
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: September 23, 2004 Signature: Meaghan Bay
Person Making Deposit